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relation of the object to the focus. This difficulty is met chiefly in the use of small, single lenses, that are held in the hand, and it may be safely said that a single hour's work, with a lens of this description held in the hand, or mounted on an unsteady stand, will cause more injury to the eyes than weeks of work where a first-class instrument of far higher power is used. It has always seemed to us that watch-makers, engravers, and those who use lenses, do not sufficiently appreciate this fact. They, in general, mount their lenses on wire stands, which tremblingly respond to every footstep that falls upon the floor, and thus cause continual demands upon the eye for re-adjustment of focus. So, too, we have seen students of botany poring over plants by the hour, and using a small hand-lens, which must have been utterly destructive to the eyes. Wherever a microscope—single or compound—is used for more than a few seconds, it ought to be mounted upon a stand so firm that all vibration, and especially all disturbance of the focussing, will be avoided.—*Good Health*.



ANTHROPOLOGY.

PROBABLE IMPORTANT ARCHÆOLOGICAL DISCOVERY. — In these days of archæological humbugs we hardly venture to copy any account of a reported discovery, but feeling confident that Mr. Meehan would not have printed Mr. Douglas's letter unless he knew him to be a reliable observer, we give the following:—Mr. H. DOUGLAS, of Waukegan, Ill., writes to Mr. Meehan (who has published the letter in the February number of the "Gardener's Monthly"), that during a recent dry season he was enabled to dig to the very bottom of his peat bed, or "muck hole," some six or seven feet below the surface. Under the peat he found "what appeared to be the bottom [shore] of a lake, showing clear sand, gravel, and small shells, exactly like the shores of the lakes so common in this country. Imbedded in this gravel we found a boulder, and around it were charred sticks, looking to all appearances like the remains of a camp fire, and near it we found several poles that had evidently been pointed at the thickest end with an instrument not very sharp, proving, at least to my satisfaction, that Indians had camped there, and that the sharpened saplings were their tent poles cut with a stone hatchet. While digging last summer about three rods from the spot named, we

found the bones of the elk,—the horns, a jaw-bone, a leg, etc., and would have got them all, but the water prevented.”

These bones were sent to Chicago, and were pronounced to be of an extinct species of Elk, and probably identical with the species found fossil in the Irish bogs. We do not know to whom these bones were submitted for examination, but we trust that the Chicago Academy will not let this sub-peat deposit remain long without a thorough investigation, and that both bones and fire-place will receive the careful attention which the subject demands. We should like to have any farther information which may be obtained. Our peat beds have not yet received the attention that they demand, when we remember how rich those of some parts of Europe have proved to be in relics of great archæological importance. No opportunity of investigating our peat deposits should be allowed to pass unheeded.

NOTES.

Some fifteen scientific gentlemen connected with the old American Ethnological Society gathered last evening at the residence of the Honorable E. G. Squier, No. 135 East Thirty-ninth street, to consider the propriety of changing the title of the Association to that of the Anthropological Institute, and the adoption of more serviceable by-laws. Mr. Squier, in introducing the subject of the meeting, said that in the similar organizations of London and Paris the functions of Ethnology had been long since exchanged for the broader ground of Anthropology, so as to embrace under that general title the coöperative labors of the anatomist, the philologist, and archæologist, and combine in one scheme of study whatever relates to historic man. The latest records of the old society having been read by the secretary, Dr. H. A. Stiles, reciting, among other things, the transfer of the effects to the Historical Society of this city, the proposal of change of name was then made by the Chairman, Mr. Alexander J. Cotheal, and adopted unanimously. The “Anthropological Institute of New York” went into session under the same temporary officers. Honorable E. G. Squier was then elected President of the Institute, and